

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 3, and please CANCEL claims 8 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises WO_x to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the WO_x .

2. **(CANCELED)**

3. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises TaO_x or AuO_x to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the TaO_x or AuO_x .

4. **(CANCELED)**

5. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The high density recording medium of claim 1, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum disposed on an opposite side of the second dielectric layer from the recording layer.

6. **(CANCELED)**

7. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The high density recording medium of claim 3, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum disposed on an opposite side of the second dielectric layer from the recording layer.

8-11. **(CANCELED)**